

Appl. No. 09/871,268  
Response dated: Nov. 16, 2006  
Reply or Office Action of Sep. 1, 2006

Patent  
Docket No. 2030.42

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

### Office Action Summary

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-10, 12-15, 17, 19-20, 32, 34, and 36-37 are pending in the application. Claim 1 stand objected to due to certain informalities. Claim 3 stnds objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-2, 4, and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 6,178,317 (Kroeger et al.) in view of U.S. patent No. 4,380,822 (Broton). Claims 7, 12-17, 19-20, 32, 34 and 36-37 are allowed. Applicant is unaware of any other rejections or objections pending in the application.

### Amendments to the Claims

Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 2 has been amended to include all of the elements and limitations of canceled Claim 3. Claim 1 has been amended address the objection thereto, and to incorporate two additional amplification steps, which correspond to the first and second amplifier elements of amended Claim 2.

### Objection to Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to change the term "on" to "one", which was required by the Examiner to overcome the objection thereto.

### Objection to Claim 3 and Rejection of Claim 2

Applicant has addressed the objection to Claim 3 by canceling Claim 3 and incorporating all of the Claim 3 elements and limitations into Claim 2. Thus, Claim 2 is

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now in condition for allowance as noted in the objection to Claim 3. Such action is courteously solicited.

#### **Rejection of Claims 4, 9 and 10**

Each of Claim 4, 9, and 10 depend from Claim 2 as their base independent claim. Since Claim 2 is now in condition for allowance, each of Claim 4, 9, and 10 are also in condition for allowance by virtue of this dependency. Such action is courteously solicited.

#### **Rejection of Claim 1**

Claim 1 is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus Claim 2. The addition of the amplifiers from Claim 3 placed Claim 2 in condition for allowance. Applicant has amended method Claim 1 to include two corresponding amplification steps, which correspond to the amplifier elements of amended Claim 2. Therefore, it is applicant's belief that method Claim 1 now distinguishes the cited prior art for the same reasons as allowable apparatus Claim 2. Allowance of Claim 1 is therefore courteously solicited.

#### **Allowed Subject Matter**

Applicant notes, with appreciation, the allowance of claims 7, 12-17, 19-20, 32, 34 and 36-37.

#### **Conclusion**

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed September 1, 2006. The Applicant believes that the same places the present

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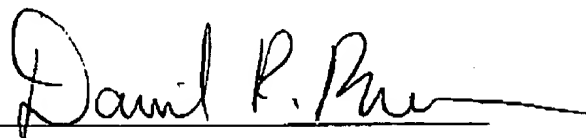
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application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration by the Examiner and allowance of the claimed invention is hereby courteously solicited.

The total number of claims in the Application has been reduced by one. Therefore, applicant believes that no additional fee is required at this time. In the event that the Examiner determines otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such additional fees, excluding the Issue Fee, or credit any overpayment, to Daniel R. Brown Deposit Account No. 501507.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration by the Examiner and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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